# Book Reviews

In general one is pleased with the clarity and accuracy of the explanations, but not by the authors' indulgence in some rather quirky terminology such as 'sender' for transmitter, 'plain' for black and white in relation to TV, and abbreviations such as 'dv' and 'av' for direct and alternating voltage. Correct though these terms may be, it is not helpful to the beginner to be given to understand that they are in common use.

Again, the beginner is not well served by a number of careless mistakes and obscurities of explanation: the statement that a reactance stage contains no inductance or capacitance; confusion and errors in the sections on multiplex and flywheel sync; the muddle of frequency units in the section on resonsance. Many more examples, admittedly fairly minor, could be cited. The section on black and white television principles is excellent. But the brief explanation of colour television is less satisfactory, with a misleadingly incomplete description of colour coding, and a reference to 4-tube cameras being in common use.

The chapter on computers is a model of clarity and economy of explanation, from which a reader will emerge with a good understanding of principles and operation.

For the enthusiastic beginner who wants to develop his general interest good value at £8·95: with a bit more care it would have been an excellent £10's worth.

D.P. LEGGATT

**Foundations of wireless and electronics**
**M.G. Scroggie, assisted by S.W. Amos**
*Butterworth*
*1984, 551pp. £8.95*

Is 'Foundations of wireless and electronics' of value to the qualified engineer? I think the answer must be yes, for many of us can do with an occasional reminder of first principles, especially when so clearly and simply expressed as in this book. But it must be remembered that it is aimed primarily at the beginner.

In parts it makes rather frustrating reading, for too often the question comes to mind, 'Why isn't this good book better?' In only 500 small pages, the coverage is impressive. Starting from very elementary electrical principles, we are taken in detail through AC circuits, radio receivers, transmitters, antennas, TV, radar and computers. But, for a book written in 1983, it is disappointing to find virtually nothing on digital signal processing and — perhaps less importantly — nothing on frequency synthesisers.